pipes, asbestos cement sheets, brake-linings etc. The asbestos fibre levels are below the prescribed National and International norms and the health hazards of use of chrysotile asbestos are yet to be proved.

The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals have sponsored a study to the National Institute Occupational Health, Ahmedabad to study the impact of Health and Environmental Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile asbestos by the Indian Industry.

Ban on GM Crops

†4033. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many genetically modified crops have been banned in many countries of the world as they are unsuitable for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also fact that the genetically modified seeds which are being distributed by foreign companies have also been banned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No Sir; No GM crop expressing approved events have been banned in any country because they are unsuitable for human comsumption.

(c) and (d) BT cotton seeds expressing four events is the only GM crop approved for commercial release in the country. Distribution of these seeds is not banned in the country.

Scheme for forest development in Goa

4034. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for forest development are in force in the State of Goa;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of essential features of the schemes;

(c) the details of projects undertaken/implemented under the schemes during the last five years in the State of Goa; and

(d) the financial assistance granted to the State during the five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry is implementing the National Afforestation Programme Scheme (NAP) in the participatory mode by involving a two tier set-up namely, Forest Development Agency at the Division/District level and Joint Forest Management Committee at the village level. The main objective of National Afforestation Programme is to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation.

(c) and (d) Three Forest Development Agencies have been constituted in the State of Goa, for implementing the National Afforestation Programme. The projects submitted by these Forest Development Agencies have been approved by this Ministry, at a total cost of Rs. 239.21 lakhs in the year 2004, out of which Rs. 64 lakhs has already been released.

Rehabilitation of Tigers

†4035. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rehabilitation work of tigers in Sariska sanctuary in Alwar district of Rajasthan is running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the tigers would be rehabilitated in Sariska; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) to (d) Central Assistance has been provided to the State for relocation of some villages from the core area of Sariska Tiger Reserve, which is an essential

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi